

GreenBeat

The National Park Service and GroundworkUSA® have teamed up to engage urban youth with their local National Parks, as part of their participation in the GW Green Team Program. Here's what's happening...



Stars of the Southwest

Green Team News

GW El Paso is lucky enough to have not one, but two Green Teams working to improve their city. Students on the co-ed Green Team are members of the Teens in Action Program, a youth leadership organization centering on community service and healthy living. In addition to their recent trip to Carlsbad Caverns, they will work on a house and land revitalization project next week to help a member of their community. The other GW El Paso Green Team is a group from Loretta Academy, an all-girls'



Catholic school. They are cultivating a cactus garden to save plants removed by development projects. This is an ongoing effort linked with their school environmental club. Both groups are attending an environmental summit on September 7th to give a Green Team Presentation. They are also excited to participate in and host the 2007 National Park Service Youth Assembly in October. Keep up the great work! 

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The NPS - GroundworkUSA® Greenteam Partnership news



Visit to Carlsbad Caverns National Park



and learned about the caves' history and science from the ranger and their two chaperones.

In addition to its famous caves, Carlsbad Caverns National Park also has several trails for hiking and backcountry camping. Green Team members spent the second day of their trip on the Iguano Trail building cairns, a type of trail marker made by stacking several rocks on top of each other. They also removed cacti and other invasive plant species. In four hours, the Green Team covered an impressive 5 miles of trail – in 100° heat! The group had fun working with each other and learning how to use things in nature to make a trail guide.

GW EL Paso Trip One to Remember

Groundwork El Paso recently took the Green Team partnership to new depths – underground, that is. Ten Green Team members from El Paso's Teens in Action program traveled to New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns National Park to explore caves, work on trails, and have fun. The park is home to 113 limestone caves formed more than 250 million years ago. The Green Team took their first visit to a national park to discover some of the largest caves in North America that attract scientists and visitors from around the world.

During the first day of the two-day trip, the Green Team took a tour with a Carlsbad Caverns National Park ranger. They explored 3 miles of underground trail through cold, damp caves in Carlsbad Cavern. Despite having little light, they saw many bats, observed minerals embedded into rock formations,

Carlsbad Caverns National Park has sparked the Green Team's interest in visiting other national

parks. They plan to return Guadalupe Mountains National Park for a day hike, where they stopped briefly to take pictures on the way to Carlsbad Caverns. The group also is considering working on a project at White Sands National Monument and wants to plan a trip to Grand Canyon National Park.

"The trail maintenance project was fun because I got to be with my friends and make a change in the community. Helping is a way of life!"
- Bianca

